

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] **FIG. 1** further shows an authentication server **108** also coupled to network **104**. Also shown in **FIG. 1**, an authentication database ~~server~~ **110** is associated with the authentication server **108**. Although the authentication database **110** is shown separately from the authentication server **108**, it is to be understood that in other embodiments of the invention, authentication database **110** is included within authentication server **108**. Moreover, in a federated environment, for example, a plurality of authentication servers **108** may be used to provide an authentication service.